XV. Pages 216-233

The author ends the novel with a final statement about intelligence, courage, and kindness. In your own view, what is the overall, general message that the author would like to leave us with about being civilized, especially as it relates to intelligence, courage, and responsibility? More specifically, in what way are all three ideas related to the idea of being civilized?

First, in what way does the rats’ method of trying to fool their would-be executioners show intelligence? What do the rats do that is clever?

It shows intelligence, because they were able to work together and show how they were intelligent by coming up with a plan. They divide up, running in and out of the woods and make their small force, look like a much larger force, like General Pemberton did to George B. McClellan in the Civil War, in 1862, during Genera McClellan’s failed Peninsula Campaign.

Second, what brave or heroic action does Mrs. Frisby witness? What past action of her own does it mirror, or in what way has she, too, been heroic?

She witnesses the act of courage by that one rat that stayed in the hole that tried to get the other two remaining rats out of the hole. This mirrors her when she stayed behind with Jeremy to save him from the Christmas tinsel when Jeremy was caught and in danger of the cat.

Thirdly, on pages 230 and 231, how does Mrs. Frisby show kindness or consideration or responsibility when she speaks with her children?

She shows kindness, consideration, and responsibility when she speaks with her children by; not telling Janice, her friend, about the rats and their plan. She doesn’t because she promised to keep it a secret, so no one would be talking about it and everything. This shows kindness, responsibility, and consideration.

Finally, re-read what you wrote. Then, think and write: What does the author of Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH want us to know about being civilized? What does it mean to be civilized? What are the character traits of a civilized person? Why is being civilized hard? Is it easier to be uncivilized? Why?

He wants us to know that to be civilized, you must be able to be morally righteous and able to do the right thing. To be civilized, you must do the right thing and have a good sense of right and wrong, along with intelligence and responsibility. The character traits of a civilized person are; intelligent, responsible, honest, and righteous. Being civilized is hard and being uncivilized is easier, because, to be civilized, you must be very intelligent, smart, responsible, and able to do the morally right thing. This is a hard thing to do.